

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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E. O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINR, AF
SUBJECT: FIRST MEETING WITH NEW AFGHAN MINISTER OF INTERNAL
AFFAIRS

1. ON TUESDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 23, 1978, I MET THE NEW MINISTER
OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN,
NOOR AHMAD NOOR, ACCOMPANIED BY MY COUNSELOR FOR ADMINISTRATIVE
AFFAIRS.

2. MR. NOOR IS A DYNAMIC AND OUTGOING INDIVIDUAL, ABOUT SIX
FEET TALL, IN HIS EARLY 40'S WITH GOOD LOOKS TO GO WITH HIS
ALMOST MOVIE STAR PERSONALITY. HE WORE AN OPEN NECK SHIRT, A
GRAY LEISURE SUIT COAT AND DARK COLORED SLACKS WITH SANDALS ON
HIS FEET. HE WAS MOST EFFUSIVE IN HIS GREETINGS UPON MY ARRIVAL,
AND KEPT UP AN ANIMATED AND WARM CONVERSTATION DURING MY 45
MINUTES WITH HIM.

3. THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER GREETED ME IN DARI BUT SWITCHED
TO PUSHTU IN CONVERSING WITH ME THROUGH HIS INTERPRETER, MR.
SAFI, THE NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS OF THE
MINISTRY WHO HAD ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT
BERKELEY, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, AND SAN FRANCISCO
STATE COLLEGE, RETURNING TO AFGHANISTAN IN 1960. BOTH MR. NOOR
AND MR. SAFI ATTENDED HABIBIA HIGH SCHOOL IN KABUL. SAFI WAS
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FOUR YEARS AHEAD OF NOOR BUT BOTH DID THEIR MILITARY SERVICE
TOGETHER AT THE SAME TIME. MR. NOOR GRADUATED FROM KABUL
UNIVERSITY IN POLITICAL SCIENCE/INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND IM-
MEDIATELY JOINED THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR A PERIOD
OF TWO OR THREE YEARS. HE THEN WAS A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT RE-
PRESENTING HIS WOLESWALI LOCATED WEST OF KANDAHAR DURING THE
TWELFTH SESSION UNDER KING ZAHIR SHAH. WHEN ASKED WHAT HE HAS

BEEN DOING SINCE THEN, HE COMMENTED THAT HE HAD BEEN WORKING FOR HIS PARTY. HIS UNDERSTANDING OF ENGLISH IS MUCH BETTER THAN HIS SPEAKING ABILITY.

4. MR. NOOR BEGAN BY COMMENTING ON THE DESIRE OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT UNDER MR. TARAKI TO ASSIST THE PEOPLE, AND SPOKE ILL OF THE DAOUD REGIME'S ABILITIES IN THIS REGARD. HE SAID HE WELCOMED THE ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES AND FULLY UNDERSTOOD THAT OUR AID HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN THE FORM OF GRANTS.

5. I EXPLAINED THE THREE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF OUR APPROACH TO RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN (INDEPENDENCE, DEVELOPMENT, REGIONAL STABILITY) AND MR. NOOR ACKNOWLEDGED OUR LONG FRIENDSHIP WITH HIS COUNTRY.

6. ON THE SUBJECT OF NARCOTICS, HE STRESSED THAT THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT PLANS TO CONTINUE WITH ITS PROGRAMS TOWARD ERADICATION OF THIS PROBLEM. WE ARE REPORTING ON THIS ASPECT MORE FULLY BY SEPTTEL.

7. WHEN ASKED TO PROVIDE WORKING LEVEL CONTACTS WITHIN HIS MINISTRY HE SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO COORDINATE HIS RESPONSE WITH THE MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL DEFENSE. HIS MINISTRY STILL HAS MANY ARMY TROOPS WITH AK-47'S AT THE GATES AND INSIDE THE BUILDING, ALTHOUGH ALL THE TANKS HAVE BEEN REMOVED.

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8. UPON ENDING MY CALL, MR. NOOR COMMENTED THAT HIS MINISTRY WOULD DO ALL WITHIN ITS POWER TO PROTECT AMERICANS LIVING OR VISITING IN AFGHANISTAN.
ELIOT

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